

the presence of any of these diseases is not found. Some months ago I suspected an infant to be developing pink disease, but learned afterwards that the suspicious syndrome disappeared with the passage of a large mass of doll's hair which the infant had swallowed over ten months previously. Other cases, especially those associated with much photophobia, are mistaken for meningitis; and in the later stages the peeling of the hands and feet causes scarlet fever again to be suspected.

Treatment: There is no known line of treatment which is effective in producing a cure. All possibilities of substitution therapy by foodstuffs and vitamins have been tried without success. It is true that the intense administration of the vitamin B complex, particularly of B₁, by intramuscular injection of vitamin B preparations, liver, etc., has, when given at a certain stage, accelerated the rate of recovery. But there is no evidence that the administration of these preparations in the early stage will arrest the development of the disease.

Apart from the use of vitamin B preparations once recovery seems to be initiated, attention must be directed towards alleviation of the infant's discomfort and misery. Sedatives are necessary to procure sleep, and no one sovereign remedy is suitable in all cases. Some infants respond readily to a simple bromide and chloral mixture, whereas others require almost adult doses of phenobarbitone or one of the newer barbiturate preparations. Frequent bathing (three or four per day) in tepid or cool water is appreciated, and serves to relieve cutaneous irritation. A garment of artificial silk, linen, or cotton should be worn next to the skin, as it is more comfortable than woollens. Wool should be worn outside to keep the child warm and thus enable bed-clothes to be dispensed with. The sides of the cot should be padded with pillows.

A suitable diet and the maintenance of nutrition are extremely difficult, as no one ingredient is acceptable in all cases. The mother should be given full freedom of choice in trying any food preparation which will be taken by the infant and which will sustain its life until natural recovery takes place.

One's sympathy is generously bestowed on the mothers whose infants are suffering from pink disease, as the nursing care is particularly arduous. The disease frequently undergoes a downhill course week after week for four or more months, and when hope is all but abandoned slight signs of recovery appear, temporarily at first, but more constantly after a week or so. Then it is noted that recovery is maintained and progress is steady with full restoration (in the absence of complications) in two to three months, on an average.

A SYNOPSIS OF FORENSIC MEDICINE AND TOXICOLOGY. By E. W.

Caryl Thomas, M.D., B.Sc., D.P.H., Barrister-at-Law. Bristol: John Wright & Sons. Pp. 179. 10s.

HERE, with an admirable economy of space and of cost, are to be found the essential facts of medical jurisprudence. The format is that of Tidy's synopsis of medicine and Hey Groves, and the subjects dealt with lend themselves admirably to this method of presentation.

This is an excellent short textbook both for the student in his fourth year and the practitioner who encounters a medico-legal problem, and who requires rapidly to renew his slender acquaintance with the proper procedure.